

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Ed Wharton

The June meeting was held a week later than usual. Instead of the third week of June, the meeting was held on June 27th. This change may have been the reason for the small turnout of members.

As you all know by now, Sue Bergstrand, our former President, has left the Philadelphia area for a better job in Kansas City. I think I can speak for all of us, when wishing Sue the very best, and thanking her for all the work she has done over the years.

Our newer members may not know all that Sue has done for this group. Therefore, I wish to take this opportunity in telling them about our former editor and President. Sue has been with the group for many, many years.

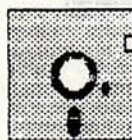
When I first started coming out to LaSalle a couple of years ago, Sue was the newsletter editor at the time. There were many times when Sue would write the whole newsletter herself! After being editor of PACENET for two years, Sue was then elected President of our group. Sue held this position of President for over a year and half.

Sue is an ATARI user!! She is very alert to new trends and products, both hardware and software. In fact, she was the first of our group to buy the new 520ST at the time it hit the market!! When she could, Sue was willing to bring in the ST for demos and to the PACS Computer Festival for the past two years. I don't think I can thank Sue enough for all the work she has done for all of us.

As the new President I hope that we will continue to move in a direction that will make this group as available and useful to all our members. This also holds true for any new member that wishes to come to our meetings and join up with our organization. I am looking forward to helping in any way I can.

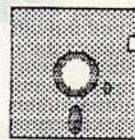
1987 ATARI USERS' GROUP OFFICERS

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EDITOR/SECRETARY:	Lucy G. Rhoda	635-1009
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SPIDER-MAN

A review by
David Mohnach

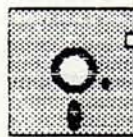


SPIDER-MAN is a program from QUESTPROBE, a trademark which is co-owned by the Marvel Comics Group and Scott Adams, Inc. Let me say that this one of many new games that are for ten dollars or less for the ATARI. I was able to buy this game from Games 'n' Gadgets at a cost of six dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$6.99).

SPIDER-MAN is an adventure game that comes with instructions, game clues, and the Commands. The Graphics in the game are good. I must say that in this adventure game, you actually become "Spider-Man".

Your quest is to search different rooms, attack creatures, and journey to different lands in order to solve the different mysteries. Your objective is to unlock the riddle of the Chief Examiner and to survive!!!

If you have an ATARI 130XE, SPIDER-MAN loads into Ramdisk. This means that when playing the game, you are not accessing the disk drive all the time. This is the first game I have seen that uses the Ramdisk. In conclusion, if you like adventure games and at a decent low price, then this is the one for you!!



NINJA

A review by
David Mohnach



Here's a program that was a great buy from Games 'n' Gadgets. The list price is nine dollars and ninety nine cents (\$9.99), but I was fortunate enough to obtain it during a two weeks sale for only six dollars and ninety nine cents (\$6.99).

Ninja is a game that is produced by Mastertronic. It is an all action game with great graphics. As most of us should know by now, Ninja is the most fearsome warrior in history. His weapons include: samurai sword, spinning death stars and a lethal throwing dagger. He must prove his worth to the Princess of the Orient as he goes through the levels of the Palace fighting his way to return with seven idols that he picks up along the way and returns with victory.

In closing, if you like action games and the Martial Arts, Ninja is a game you should add to your Atari game collection.



WHY BECOME A PACS MEMBER? by Ed Wharton

I've been asked many times: "Why be a member of a user's group?" and/or "What's so good about PACS anyway?"

There are many things a user's group offers its members. Probably the most important thing a group like ours can offer is a place to hold meetings. We are luckier than most user's groups in that we are supported by PACS and LaSalle University. We don't have to pay a fee for the rooms where we hold our meetings.

As a paid-PACS member you receive not one but two newsletters, the DATABUS and the PACENET. The DATABUS is normally mailed to your home address about a week before all the meetings. The DATABUS is made up of articles from all the SIGs in PACS, including the Atari 8-bit and Atari ST groups. When you attend our meetings, you can also obtain a copy of the Atari SIG newsletter: PACENET.

But then, you might wonder, "Why read stuff about a computer I don't own?" For myself, I'm interested in computers in general, and like to read what the other SIGs of PACS are doing with their machines. There are also articles in the DATABUS of "general interest", articles about the computer industry, telecommunications, and even a little humor now and then. It also provides a list of the rooms and times of all the meetings that are held at PACS.

The PACENET on the other hand is the product of our own Atari 8-bit and ST SIG members. Our newsletter is available at the meetings, and it's free to all that come in. It features Atari news, software/hardware reviews, program listings, and info about SIG events.

We at PACS Atari SIGs have one of the best and most extensive libraries of public domain software that I've ever seen. In most cases, the disks are double sided and they cost only \$2.00 each. PACS members get a discount of \$1.00 off the first disk they buy each month. If you were to buy one disk each month for the library you could save \$12.00 each year.

PACS has joined the world of telecommunications!! Now a new and exciting feature that PACS has to offer its members is a four phone line BBS. The BBS has SIGs for all PACS members. You can read the messages in most SIGs areas, and of course the Atari SIG. I hope all our members will try out our BBS. It can be a great way for us all to keep in touch between meetings. This telecommunication system includes an upload/download service where the newest and best Atari 8-bit and ST public domain software can be found.

Now I'll come to the best part about PACS, and why I keep coming to these meetings. People!! I've met so many good people here. They come from all over the Philadelphia area to attend our meetings. The members of a group are what makes a good user's group.

PLEASE NOTE: No one needs to be a member of PACS in order to come to our meetings. We welcome Atari users to visit us. But, I hope everyone will find something here that will make them want to come back. I also hope everyone who comes to our group meetings will find something that they like, and will then want to become members of PACS.

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*** W A N T E D ***

The Philadelphia Area Computer Society's Atari User's Group is looking for public domain software. Anyone can, and all members are encouraged to donate programs to the PACS library. When you donate a disk (with something on it) to the library, you can pick a disk of your choice from the library. Public domain programs of any kind are wanted for our library, utilities, printer utilities, BASIC games, machine language games, pictures, or graphics. If you have a file that's not in the library, the librarians would like to see it.

**THE PACENET
NEEDS YOUR
HELP!!**



**WE NEED YOUR
ARTICLES!!**

FROM THE EDITOR'S COMPUTER

by Lucy G. Rhoda

Well, here I am writing another column for the PACENET. It seems like I just did one yesterday. I guess because for the past several months, our meetings have been held on different Saturdays. Thank goodness we're going back to our normal "Third Saturday of each month"!!! I am hoping for a better turnout at the meeting this month. June was rather disappointing.

Bill Colburn, our former Vice-President, gave me this article from the June 18, 1987 issue of the Daily News. It's very interesting and I felt that all our members should read it too. Here's a reprint of that "newstory". The article called "Computer User Fees Attacked. FCC Plan Called Devastating Blow" was written by Associated Press journalist, Deborah Mesce. Once you have read this, we all want you to write to your Senator, your Congressman, and to Gerard Salomon of the House Energy and Commerce telecommunications subcommittee. Tell them how you feel about these fees. We want to use the services but may have to cut back if the fees get "out of hand". We would hate to cut the use of these information and computer services from our "home budget" altogether.

COMPUTER USER FEES ATTACKED

Information industry officials say a government proposal that would sharply increase fees for many business and home computer users to hook up to computer-based services would deliver a devastating blow to the industry.

They say the Federal Communications Commission proposal would add as much as \$5.00 an hour per user to the cost of dialing into a computer network, which would more than double the cost of the least expensive services.

"This kind of change is going to impede the distribution of information services to the small user because it's going to make it more expensive," said Joseph Markoski, a lawyer for Adapso, a computer service trade association.

The FCC is proposing to end, as of Jan. 1, 1988, an exemption from certain telephone access charges for computer networks and information retrieval systems.

Industry officials say the resulting higher costs more likely would be passed on to the millions of businesses and individuals who use the services.

Especially hard hit would be the lower-priced services tailored to the home-computer user, which give access to electronic bill-boards, airline schedules, new stories and dating services.

"What you would see is a reduction in demand for all services, but dramatic reduction in demand almost to the point of killing...the low-priced services," said Phillip M. Walker, a vice president of Telenet Communications Corp., one of the largest computer networks.

He estimated it would add \$4.50 an hour per user to Telenet's current total cost of \$5-\$8 per hour.

CompuServe, a Columbus, Ohio information service with 360,000 subscribers charges either \$6.25 or \$12.50 per hour, depending on the speed by which the data is transmitted. Spokesman David Kishler estimated the fee would add at least \$2 to the hourly rate. For Quantum Computer Services whose Quantum Link provides a range of news, travel and other services to the consumer market, the impact would be far greater. Stephen Case, vice president of marketing, estimates the access charge would add \$4 an hour to its current cost of \$3.60.

The industry is seeking help on Capitol Hill to block the proposal but reaction has been cautious.

"We're still analyzing what effects it would have on the information service markets," said Gerard Salomon of the House Energy and Commerce telecommunications subcommittee.

The FCC has maintained that the computer networks and information providers should pay their share of the cost of the telephone network. The agency says it was well known that the exemption was intended to be temporary, until the industry could adjust to the restructuring that resulted from the breakup of AT&T.

ADVERTISING RATE:

Do you wish to advertise in our newsletter? We are now going to advertise so that the club can raise more money to cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters each month. The rates are as follows:

\$20.00	FULL PAGE
10.00	HALF PAGE
4.00	BUSINESS CARD

Call 635-1009 for more information.

OR

Write to: PACENET Advertising
c/o Lucy G. Rhoda
314 S. Sterling Rd.
Elkins Park, PA. 19117

NOTE: The deadline for any ad is the second Saturday of every month in order to be in that month's newsletter. Therefore, the ad is due on August 8, 1987 in order to make the August issue of PACENET.

EDITOR'S NOTES: Since we had a small turnout at the June meeting, I am repeating this article about the BBS so that the members who were not able to obtain a newsletter last month can read it this month.

PACS BBS IS UP!!!

by Rich Freedman

It has been a loooooong wait, BUT the PACS BBS is up and running at this very moment (honest...really!!!)

The board is running on a UNIX system with 140 Megabytes of storage. Each sub-board, including the ATARI SIG's, will initially have about 30 Megabytes. This is, of course, subject to change. 140 Mb sounds expensive?!? PACS Vice-President, Steve Weissman, assures us that the entire system has cost only \$10,000 of the \$15,000 allotted. That's 33% under budget!!! I think that the two Steves (Longo and Weissman) are to be heartily thanked and congratulated! It is quite obvious that they will never get jobs with the Federal Government!!

As I stated: The board is RUNNING!! However, it will be a little while before all the features are implemented. As of the second week of June, only the message bases and private E-mail are working. Xmodem and Kermit file transfers will be implemented soon (maybe by the time you read this). Also promised soon, although I wouldn't hold my breath, is 40-column screen formatting for those of us who haven't gotten our XEP-80's. What I like to stress is that an awful lot of work has gone into getting this board running. PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE with those who have worked, and continue to work very hard to bring this board to life. The little niceties will come...slowly, BUT they will come. We'll welcome your suggestions for improvements and additions, but please realize that not everything is possible and that this is not going to be Compuserve. (Maybe it'll be better!!)

"How," you may ask, "do I gain access to the PACS Multi-SIG Bulletin Board?" If you're not a PACS member in good standing (dues paid), the first step is to JOIN and/or pay your dues. To get an account on this system, you MUST be a PACS member in good standing. Next, either mail in the application that should be in this month's DATA BUS or contact either of the co-sysops. We are:

Rich Freedman (215) 742-6992 (Home number -- leave a message if I'm not there, and don't be afraid to call late.)

Jay Freedman (215) 657-2369 (Home number -- no calls after 9 p.m. please.)

Within a few days of your application, an account will be yours. If you have any questions at all, feel free to call me or Jay.

SEE 'YA ONLINE!!!

NEWS AND QUIPS FROM OTHER USERS GROUPS

I found these to be quite "in tune, computerwise," with the computer-minded members of our group. These two are from LA-ACE JOURNAL (Los Angeles Atari Computer Enthusiasts)

TIDBITS

You can tell you're spending too much time on your computer when...

Your alarm clock goes off and you haven't been to bed yet.

You work three weeks on a program that only uses 16K of memory, then a friend shows you one that does the same thing in only 15 lines.

Your gosub never returns.

Your wife starts watching football.

You check the calendar to see what season it is.

The cat wants to sleep on the computer because it's the warmest place in the house.

You start to like cold french fries and warm milk.

The folks at the computer store know you on a first name basis.

A tornado blows the roof off your house, and all you notice is that the light is better.

You start to understand machine code...magnets make you nervous.

WHAT KIND OF MEMBER ARE YOU?

(a poem)

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented to have your name on the list?

Do you attend meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you just stay at home, then criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied that you just belong?

Think this over, member, you know right from wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

THE PACENET

NEEDS

YOUR ARTICLES!!